

Inauguration of Parliament: a colorful celebration with little substance



ORANJESTAD – While it was initially reported that the inauguration ceremony for the new Parliamentary Year would not go through as planned following the resignation of the Government of Aruba – and thus the dissolution of Parliament – the ceremony took place yesterday with participation of members of Parliament, the demissionary government, and the Governor of Aruba.

Traditionally, the ceremony for the inauguration of the new Parliamentary Year is

focused on the plans of the Government of Aruba for the following year. The Governor of Aruba, His Excellency Mr. Alfonso Boekhoudt gives a speech in which he reviews the achievements of the past year and outlines the plans for the coming year. This year however, after the coalition government collapsed due to an internal dispute between the coalition partners on Monday, the Governor's speech was focused on the upcoming elections, scheduled for December 6.

The Governor's speech, which was shorter than usual, also lacked substance, given that it could not outline the plan for the Government of Aruba for the coming year. The event did display the usual pageantry, with a parade and the usual elegant and colorful fashion worn by Aruba's political elite.

It did have a new twist, however: for the first time, the presidency of Parliament was not held by a member of the traditional MEP or AVP parties; rather, it went to Ray-



mond Kamperveen, a member of the junior party in the demissionary coalition, Raiz.

The current Parliament will sit for only three months before

Aruban voters are called to elect a new Parliament in December, and the winner of that election will be asked by the Governor to form a new government. □



Exploring the Mainstreet of San Nicolas

SAN NICOLAS— At Just 11 miles southeast from Oranjestad you will enter the city San Nicolas, also known as Sunrise City or Chocolate City. A city that is rich in authentic culture and island charm. San Nicolas is Aruba's second largest city and was once a bustling company town dominated by the oil industry since the early 1930's.

Over the course of four decades, its demographics had changed immensely due to a stream of Afro-Caribbean and South American workers who came to fill the jobs in the oil refinery between the 1920's until the 1960's. To this day traces of the multicultural influences in culinary offerings and customs, housing and population are clearly visible in San Nicolas - more than anywhere else on the island.

Flow of history

if you are looking for history San Nicolas has it. Here you will find three amazing museums, The Museum of Industry, the Community Museum and the Carnival Euphoria, all within walking distance from one another. The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history which began in the 19th century. Here you will learn about gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and the tourism industries which made San Nicolas once a bustling business center. Experience the touching stories of those who were part of this history. Nicolaas Store built in 1940 and renovated in 2014 is the home of the Community Museum. The collection is remarkable and spans millennia. Ancient fossils stand next to tableaus of an authentically recreated colonial kitchen and bedroom

and 19th-century barber-shop, just to name a few of the items of old-time Aruba that has been preserved. A collection of artifacts and other objects of artistic, cultural, historical, or scientific importance can be found here for the purpose of education or enjoyment. Carnival Euphoria is showcasing Aruba's Carnival. See how are Carnival has developed over the past 65 years.

The new San Nicolas

In the shadow of the refinery, an art capital is quietly beginning to grow. This is the new San Nicolas, a place that is starting to become a magnet for all that is young, cool and hip in Aruba. Indeed, San Nicolas has all of the ingredients of an emerging cultural hub — varied history, interesting architecture, and, perhaps most importantly, an urban layout that makes it walk-



able. As you walk around, the streets are silent but the walls are loud, filled with bright, colorful murals painted by a collection of artists from around the world. Thanks to the efforts of various art organizations in Aruba, such as Art Rules Aruba and Aruba Art Fair, San Nicolas has had quite the aesthetic makeover with regards to vibrant street art. Each year more and more stunning murals are replacing broken down buildings with colorful art pieces that keep brightening up SunriseCity.

Must See, Do, Buy & Eat

A little bit of everything can be found in the main street. Stores selling shoes, clothing, jewelry you name it. Arts & crafts by Cosecha store & Creative Center, a design store in which you can immerse yourself in discovering genuine and locally made arts and crafts which reflect the diversification of the Aruban craft heritage and the artistic supply of artisans. Don't miss out on trying the exquisite food offered by the cafes and restaurants or just enjoy a peaceful walk admiring the murals, mosaic benches and all the history San Nicolas has to offer. □